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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAB-01

OMB-01 IO-13 /082 W
---------- 083323
R 141355Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1078
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2693

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO
SUBJECTC INITIAL ISRAELI REACTION TO WEST BANK ELECTIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 0513

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WHILE ISRAEL PRESS APRIL 14 GIVES EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO RESULTS OF WEST BANK MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF EDITORIAL COMMENT. DEFENSE MINISTER PERES HAS NOTED THAT THE VICTORY BY THE YOUNG PROGRESSIVES DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN SUPPORT FOR THE PLO. NRP YOUNG GUARD LEADER HAMMER SEES IN THE RESULTS PROOF THAT THE WEST BANK MUST NOT BE RETURNED SINCE EXTREMISTS WOULD IMMEDIATELY GAIN CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN INTERVIEW IN APRIL 14 YEDIOT AHARANOT, DEFMIN PERES SAID THAT "THE ELECTIONS IN JUDEA NAD SAMARIA PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING A DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS IN THE AREA THROUGH THEIR MUNICIPAL REPRESENTA-TIVES ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE REGION. THE CITIZENS THEMSELVES HAVE REJECTED ISRAELI PROPOSALS
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TO GRANT THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES SELF-ADMINISTRATION..."

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PERES NOTED THAT DESPITE THE NATIONALIST TENDENCIES EXPRESSED IN THE ELECTIONS, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE VOTERS AND THOSE ELECTED PREFER A REGIME OF VIOLENCE. PERES ALSO SAID, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 13, THAT THE FACT THAT THERE WAS A RADICAL VICTORY WAS "NO DAY OF MOURNING FOR ISRAEL. THIS IS A CHALLENGE WHICH WE SHALL STAND UP TO.."

3. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER HAMMER (NRP YOUNG GUARD), EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT "THE NATIONALIST-LEFTIST-PLO TENDENCY SEEN IN THE ELECTIONS INDICATES THAT IF WE RETURN THE WEST BANK, IT WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO...THE EXTREMISTS WITHIN A FEW HOURS... IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT IT IS PREFERABLE TO HAVE AN ENEMY INSIDE MY COUNTRY THAN OUTSIDE NARROW AND UNTENABLE BORDERS...."

4. HAARETZ EDITORIAL LAUDS THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES "PRESERVED DURING THE ELECTIONS." BUT IT NOTES THAT THE RESULTS "ARE FAR FROM EXPRESSING ACCEPTANCE (BY THE VOTERS) OF OUR CONTROL..." THE EDITORIAL ASSUMES THAT "THE AUTHORITIES WILL BE READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE NEW MUNICIPAL LEADERS NO LESS THAN IN THE PAST... WE CAN ALSO EXPECT THOSE NEWLY ELECTED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY MUST FIND A COMMON LANGUAGE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION...AND TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA AND FULFILLMENT OF THE TASKS FOR WHICH THEY WERE ELECTED."

5. JERUSALEM POST EDITORIAL ALSO NOTES "A FREER ELECTION COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN HELD IN ANY ARAB COUNTRY TODAY..." IT ALSO STRESSES THAT THE RESULTS REPRESENT A CLEAR VICTORY FOR YOUNG "RADICALS" AND ADDS THAT THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES FAILED TO REALIZE THAT "THEIR RESPONSE TO THE RIOTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS THAT ACCOMPANIED THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN...SERVED TO UNDERMINE THE POWER OF THE 'MODERATES' AND TO BUILDUP THE IMAGE OF THE 'EXTREMISTS'..." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES...MUST NOT TREAT THE NEW
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LOCAL LEADERS AS POTENTIAL ENEMIES BUT AS PARTNERS TO A NEW DIALOGUE..."
TOON

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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